

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Cuba

SUBJECT Increasing Difficulties Facing the Communist CTC

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1. The election of Eusebio Mujal as Secretary General of the government-supported Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC) was a real blow to the followers of Lazaro Pena and the Communist CTC. The Communists have fought Mujal bitterly and realize that he will follow an anti-Communist line in his leadership of the CTC.
2. The Communist CTC fears that the Supreme Court will uphold the Presidential Decree of 10 October 1947 which gave legal recognition to the anti-Communist CTC and approved its V Congress. The complaint lodged by Pena's CTC with the Supreme Court against this decree is still pending. If the decree is upheld, the Communist CTC will be required to abandon completely the use of the title CTC and to return all of the effects and funds which they now retain in the name of the CTC. Although the Communists may be able to act as an organization, they will not be able to do so under the guise of being an official syndical organization.
3. If the above ruling occurs, the Communists, in order to retain a separate identity, will have to organize a new workers' group and celebrate a First National Congress which will be entirely Communist. The new organization will not gain the sympathy that Pena's group now has as a carry-over from the years when the Communists controlled all Cuban labor. Furthermore, the organization of such a movement would cost the Communists a great deal of money at a time when they will have been deprived of the CTC funds they now enjoy.
4. During the Communists CTC VI National Congress on 8 April, the leaders decided to encourage the re-entry of CTC constituents into anti-Communist groups.* In accordance with this policy, Pena requested a friendship pact with Mujal's organization. Pena suggested that some Communist officials in each syndicate be placed on the executive committees in order to represent the Communist workers, even though the committees themselves remained completely anti-Communist in their majority. Pena claimed that in this way real unity could be achieved. Mujal, however, refused Pena's suggestion and said that he would fight against any Communist who joined his organization and would fight the ceding of power to any such individual. Mujal further declared that under no circumstances would he enter any pact with the Communist CTC on behalf of Cuban labor.

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5. The Communist CTC has continued its policy of infiltrating the anti-Communist syndicate groups under the banner "Ofensiva de la Unidad". Within the syndicates the Communists have sought the establishment of unity committees, the purpose of which is to convince the workers that they should arrive at a working agreement with the Communist syndicate in the same factory in order to unite all labor.
6. One specific instance where this has occurred is in the Sindicato de Obreros Panaderos y Sus Similares of Habana Province which has more than 2000 members. Although the Executive Committee of the syndicate is anti-Communist, pro-Communist elements called for a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the Communist "unity" proposition. At a meeting held on 25 May, Secretary General Severo of the anti-Communist group was able to restrain his organization from accepting the Communist offer. The Communists are now working to convoke an assembly of all workers in the syndicate in order to push their plan through by a general vote.

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